

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 – 9 and 17 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 6 – 9 and 17 were rejected.

In the amendment, Claims 1 and 17 are amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 6 – 9 and 17 are at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 7 – 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota et al. ("Ota") (JP 2002-16362).

Claim 1 is directed to an IC card which comprises an IC module which comprises an IC chip mounted on an insulating substrate having an antenna coil, and a chip reinforcing plate provided on at least an IC mounted surface of the insulating substrate, and a core layer comprising a plurality of sheet materials having said IC module disposed therebetween.

Amended Claim recites "in said plurality of sheet materials, at least the sheet materials adjacent to said IC module have a through hole for containing therein said IC chip and said chip reinforcing plate, formed to penetrate the adjacent sheet materials in a region corresponding to an IC mounted portion of said IC module before placing said IC chip therein."

As the Examiner stated Ota fails to teach or suggest that the through hole is formed before the placement of the IC chip, and that the through hole penetrates the sheet materials of the IC card. Thus, Ota does not read upon every claimed limitation of Claim 1.

As such, Claim 1 is patentable over Ota, as are dependent Claims 1, and 6 – 9 for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claim 17 has been amended in a similar fashion as that of Claim 1. Thus, Claim 17 is also patentable over Ota.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these 35 U.S.C. § 103 claim rejections be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 6 – 9 and 17 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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